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WORSBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1941.

BARNSLEY :
Hibbert, Ashton & Youel, Ltd., Printers, 12, Market Street.
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ANNUAL REPORT, 1941

To the Chairman and Members of the
Worsborough Urban District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health Conditions of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1941.

On instructions from the Ministry of Health, the report has been confined to essential matters and Statistical Returns only, and on grounds of national security, no figures or tables of local populations are to be disclosed.

Your obedient servant,
JEAN H. RITCHIE, M.B., Ch.B
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

According to the Registrar General's Figures :—

Total live births in the District 196 (Males 87, Females 109)
Legitimate 186 (Males 83, Females 103)
Illegitimate 10 (Males 4, Females 6).

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 15.49

Still Births 10

Still Birth Rate 0.79.

Live and Still Birth Rate for the year 16.28.

Deaths at all ages 120 (Males 63, Females 57)

Death Rate for the year 9.48

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	0
Puerperal Sepis	0
Other Puerperal	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year 14 (Males 8, Females 6)

Illegitimate 0 (Males 0, Females 0)

Legitimate 14 (Males 8, Females 6)

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births 70.70.

Deaths from Cancer	9
Deaths from Measles	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

England and Wales

	1939	1940	1941
Death Rate	12.1	14.3	12.9
Birth Rate	15.0	14.6	14.2
Infantile Mortality Rate	50.0	55.0	59.0

Worsborough District.

	1939	1940	1941
Death Rate	11.23	12.00	9.48
Birth Rate	20.07	20.80	15.49
Infantile Mortality Rate	63.29	59.47	70.70

Causes of Death in 1941.

Disease.	Male	Female
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1
Scarlet Fever	0	1
Whooping Cough	1	0
Diptheria	1	0
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	1
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	0	1
Influenza	3	0
Measles	1	0
Cancer	2	7
Diabetes	0	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	5	6
Heart Disease	14	17
Other Circulatory Diseases	0	3
Bronchitis	4	2
Pneumonia	5	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0
Diarrhoea	1	0
Appendicitis	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1
Nephritis	3	1
Premature Birth	1	2
Congenital, Malformatory	2	2
Suicide	1	1
Accident	1	0
Other Violent Causes	4	2
All Other Causes	8	4
Total	63	57

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

Disease	Under 24 hours		Under One Week		Under One Year		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Prematurity	1	1	.....	.....	.....	1	3
Congenital	1	.....	1	.....	.....	2	4
Convulsions, Teething, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Broncho Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2	5
Diarrhoea	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Totals	2	1	1	.....	5	5	14

Deaths under 1 year in different Areas

Worsborough Dale	Worsborough Bridge	Blacker Hill	Birdwell and Worsborough	Total
7	5	0	2	14

Deaths at 1 year and Upwards.

Worsborough Dale	Worsborough Bridge	Blacker Hill	Birdwell and Worsborough	Total
42	28	11	25	106

Infant Mortality.

Investigation of the Infantile Mortality Rate shows no outstanding reason for its alarming increase.

Contributory causes probably are war conditions having and adverse psychological influence on the expectant mother, and the fact that in several cases no ante-natal care was sought. It is perhaps noteworthy that the maternal age in several cases was unusually great. One mother was 42 at the baby's birth.

Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Fourteen cases occurred throughout the year, and these were scattered all over the district. No apparent connection was discovered between any two cases, and no definite source of the infection was found. The modern treatment has reduced the death rate, so that only two cases were fatal.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

The outbreak of measles which commenced in 1940 subsided during the early months of 1941.

Whooping Cough has again made an appearance, a total of 61 cases being notified. Only one death occurred as a result of Whooping Cough.

Diptheria Immunisation.

Of fifteen casesof diptheria which occurred, one was fatal. None of the fifteen cases had been immunised.

Immunisation is still being carried out, and the percentage of school children immunised is now over 70% in most schools, in one it is 86% and in another 80%. Much remains to be done, and we hope to bring our percentage even higher during the coming year.

Scabies.

The scheme for the treatment of Scabies for the district submitted by the County Medical Officer is almost completed, and it is anticipated that it will shortly be in operation.

There were approximately 50 case of Scabies reported during the year, and the bedding and clothing were removed to St. Helens Hospital, Barnsley, for disinfestation, and the houses stoved.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR THE HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance Facilities.

A. (1) **Fever :** arrangements with the Wath, Swinton and District Joint Hospital Board, to remove all cases to Hospital.

(2) **Small Pox :** do. do. do.

B. **For Accidents, etc., and Non-infectious Cases.**

Motor-Ambulance provided by the Council.

Particulars supplied by the Surveyor :—

Number of Patients using the Ambulance during the year	851
Number of miles travelled	6,290
Cost of Ambulance per day	25s. 9d.

Nursing in the Home.

Nature of Arrangements in the District :—

(a) General :—Private association known as the "Cooper and Worsborough District Nursing Association" (partly endowed) provides two qualified nurses for the "Necessitous Poor" for treatment in their own homes. for the whole district.

During the year the Nurses made 4802 visits to patients' homes and 172 new cases were treated. Of these visits 1316 were for Public Assistance and Old Age Pensioners, and 398 visits were paid to notifiable Cases.

(b) Infectious Diseases :—none.
Midwives controlled by the County Council.
Laboratory Facilities :—Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by the County Council.

Public Shelters.

The 18 Public Shelters in the district have been completed, conveniences and doors having now been provided.

Air-Raid Precautions.

The establishment for Worsborough has not altered much during the year, and we are well up to standard as far as First Aid, Ambulance, Rescue and Decontamination Services are concerned.

Salvage Report for the Year ended 31st March, 1942.

Material Collected	Amount sold T.	C.	Q.	lbs	£	s.	d.	In stock T.	C.	Q.
Waste Paper	58	15	3	5	139	1	10	1	0	0
Scrap Iron	21	10	0	0	46	19	6	3	0	0
Scrap Tins	61	8	3	0	78	0	5	5	0	0
Glass Cullet	14	19	0	0	11	4	3	5	0	0
Rags	4	9	2	14	38	10	0		3	0
Bones	3	2	1	14	10	18	3		6	0
Bottles and Jars ..... (124 Gross)	7	5	0	0	19	17	3		3	0
Non-Ferrous Metals including aluminum	—	18	2	21	17	13	6		2	0
Totals	172	9	0	26	362	5	0	14	14	0

Collection of Waste Food.

An agreement is operating in the district between the Council and individual pig-keepers and 1 pig club for the right to collect waste food, the Council having undertaken to supply them with a sufficient number of bins at a cost of 1½d. per bin per week.

These are fixed in suitable positions to serve the whole district and at present 67 bins are in use.

The scheme is working satisfactorily.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

There have been no complaints with regard to the main water supply for the district.

It was found that the tenants of two cottages on the boundary of the district were using water from a piped spring, but notice was given to these tenants to discontinue using this water, as an alternative mains supply was available within reasonable distance.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No additions or alterations have been made to these works and at present there is no serious shortage.

Closet Accommodation.

Only two Privy-middens have been converted into water closets during 1941. No new water closets have been provided for old property and no new property has been built at all.

No. of Privies converted into w.c.'s in 1941	No. of waste w.c.'s converted into w.c.'s in 1941	No. of additional closets provided for old property	No. of w.c.'s constructed for new houses	No. of closets in district at end of 1941.		
				w.c.'s	waste w.c.'s	Privies
2	0	0	0	2959	143	151

Scavenging.

No. of Ashpits emptied	4637
No. of Dust Bins emptied	163304
No. of Loads removed	4325
Deposited on land	204
Deposited on tips	4121
Salvage loads	968

The total cost for the scavenging (including Salvage for the year was £3577

NUISANCES.

Total Number of Inspections made in 1941—240.

Cause of Nuisance	No. of Notices served		No. of Notices Complied with
	Informal	Statutory	
Defective Manholes to Drains	1	1	1
Choked and Defective Drains	20	20	20
Nuisance from Rats	6	—	6
Offensive and Worn-out Sinks	5	5	5
Dirty Premises	13	13	13
Dust-Bins (dilapidated)	13	13	13
Flooding Cellars	1	1	1
Dogs	2	2	2
Offensive Urinal	1	—	1
Vermin	10	—	10
Sewage	2	2	2
Water-Closets	4	4	4
Overcrowding	1	—	1
Hens and Rabbits	3	—	3
Privy-Midden	1	1	1
Gutters	1	1	1
Smoke	1	—	1
Totals	85	63	85

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES & MEATSHOPS, ETC.

	No. of Inspections	Conditions
No. of Bakehouses on Register 3	36	Clean and Satisfactory
No. of Offensive Trades (Fish Frying only) on Register 18	72	Clean and Satisfactory
No. of Slaughterhouses on Register 10	140	One slaughterhouse only now in use as a meat distributing depot. Conditions are quite satisfactory
No. of Factories on Register 17	85	With the exception of Barrow Coal & Coke Co. and Longley's Timber Yard, none of these premises are extensive. Conditions are satisfactory

HOUSING.

No Clearance Areas have been made during the year and no houses have been dealt with as Individual Unfit. Some further action has been taken with regard to the clearance of sites from previously condemned areas.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) Total Number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects (Under Public Health and Housing Acts) 495

Total Number of Inspections made for the purpose 700

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 495

(3) Number of Dwelling Houses needing further action :—

(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation ..... Nil

(b) Number found not to be in all respects fit for habitation 82

(4) Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit as a result of informal action taken by Local Authority or other Officers 33

(5) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

(a) Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit after service of formal notices—

By Owners 59
(including 14 outstanding from 1940)

By Local Authority in Default of Owners ..... Nil

No proceedings under Sections 11 and 12 of Housing Act, 1936.

Overcrowding.

Very little serious overcrowding existed before war broke out, but it is now impossible to give any true criterion as to the amount of overcrowding existing in the district at the present time without a complete survey being carried out.

A number of new cases have come to the notice of the Health Officers during the year, but there are no vacant houses in the district, all being occupied.

On the other hand many families have been reduced by individual members having been called up for war service or other duties, and I am of the opinion that there is not as yet any very appreciable amount of overcrowding.

This, however, will bear no relation to the Overcrowding which will exist at the termination of hostilities, and as the building of houses has been stopped for the duration, there would appear to be no point in conducting a Housing Survey at the present time.

Undoubtedly, at the end of the war large numbers of houses will be required to meet both the Overcrowding and to provide for new married families and the normal growth of the district covering the whole of the war years.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are 10 Licensed Slaughterhouses in this district. One Slaughterhouse at Worsborough Dale is used for the distribution of the Meat Allocation for the District, and one at Worsborough Bridge is earmarked for use in connection with the Treatment of Food in case of contamination by Poison Gas.

The remaining slaughterhouses have only been used occasionally for the slaughter of Cottage's pigs, under license issued by the Ministry of Food.

The whole of the meat for Worsborough is distributed to the Butchers from one slaughterhouse in Worsborough Dale, and is inspected before distribution.

The following were inspected during the year :—

565 sides of English Beef
943 Sheep (English)
106 Pigs (English)
53 Calves (English)
20 Cottager's Pigs (Killed under license granted by the ministry of Food).

The following food-stuffs were condemned :—

19 lbs. of Rolled Bacon
$11\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of Frozen Lamb.
15 Eggs
6 Sets of Pig's Lungs.

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk and Dairies Orders

Summary of the Registers :—

Number of Milk Producers	25
Number of Milk Retailers	19
Number of Milk Retailers (not cowkeepers)	10
Number of Wholesalers	7

One producer licensed for the production of Certified Tuberculin Tested Milk.

One vendor licensed to retail Pasteurised Milk

Six vendors licensed to retail Accredited Milk.

There are 42 Cowsheds in the district and a total of 282 cows are kept. 150 Cowshed Inspections have been made and all the cows have been examined by the Veternary Inspector.

Samples are taken regularly by the County Council for bacteriological examination, and routine samples for sediment tests taken by the Health Department.

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1941.

Notifiable Diseases	Age Groups													Number of Cases Notified in each Locality				Total Cases removed to Hospital	Number of Deaths
	At all Ages	Year																	
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Worsbro' Bridge	Worsbro' Dale	Birdwell	Blacker Hill		
Measles	111	4	14	5	18	17	45	5	3					11	16	41	43		1
Whooping Cough	61	7	1	9	3	12	26	2			1			15	16	22	8		1
Diphtheria	15					1	4	4	4	2				6	2	5	2	15	1
Scarlet Fever	19		1	1	4	1	8	3	1					6	5	4	4	14	1
Pneumonia	31	2		1	2		6	2	2	6	3	5	2	8	7	15	1		7
Erysipelas	6	1								1	1	3			6			1	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	14	2		1	1	1	2	1	2	3		1		8	2	4		14	2
Poliomyelitis	1		1													1			0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1								
1 to 5			1					
5 to 15			1					
15 to 25		2		1		1		1
25 to 35								
35 to 45		1			1			
45 to 55								
55 to 65					1			
65 and over	1							
Totals	1	3	2	1	2	1	0	1